

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**


After receiving and reviewing the subject office action and the references cited by the examiner, Applicant's attorney conducted a telephonic interview with the examiner on March 25, 2004 to discuss proposed amendments involving the location of the release fastener intermediate the two ends of the hang towels and further the type of release fastener. Although the release fastener's location as shown in the drawing figures of Applicant's invention as item 14 and described in the specification in lines 1-7 on page 7, the prior claims did not include same. Furthermore, the claims did not describe the particular type of release fastener consisting of male / female components interconnected to each other and, accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 13 to specify the structure of the release fastener.

Accordingly, the current amendment of the claims calls for a tension release fastener located intermediate the first and second attachment portions of the hang line of the towel. The prior art does not disclose a tension release fastener in such a location. Applicant's fastener and its location are particularly important to the functioning of Applicant's invention as it allows the hang towel to be released from around their neck or other portion of a wearer's torso in response to longitudinal tension which might be caused by getting the hang towel caught on something such as workout equipment which could lead to strangulation or injury to the wearer. .

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant believes the remaining elected claims of his application, those claims being 1-3, 9, 10, and 12-14 should now be in a position for allowance and the expeditious passage of same is respectively requested.

Should the examiner disagree or have any questions, comments or further amendments which will expedite the allowance of this patent application, a call to the undersigned attorney of record would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,  
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I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above response and amendment with attachments noted therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service by "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service, **U.S. Express Mail No. ED-069182784-US, on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2004**, addressed to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, 2011 South Clark Place, Customer Window, Mail Stop RCE, Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03, Arlington, VA 22202.

  
Legal Assistant